



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

December 9, 2005

WOMAN ARRESTED BY ICE FOR ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE BOY INTO THE U.S.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 31-year-old U.S. citizen was arrested here Wednesday at the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents for attempting to smuggle a Dominican boy into the United States.

Enid Rosario-Montañez provided U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors with a fraudulent U.S. birth certificate in order to smuggle the boy into the country. CBP inspectors referred Rosario-Montañez to a secondary inspection to conduct a more thorough interview and to determine the boy's admissibility.

During the interview, Rosario-Montañez admitted to CBP offices that she lied to inspectors and that she was hired and offered \$2,000 to bring the boy from the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico.

"ICE will simply not tolerate this type of criminal activity in our jurisdiction," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. "The current immigration law promotes and facilitates family reunification through the issuance of immigrant visas to qualified family members of legal permanent residents and U.S. citizens. We will not allow this flagrant disregard for the law by those trying to circumvent the legal immigration process."

Rosario-Montañez is in federal custody and the boy was transferred to the Puerto Rico Social Services Department until he can be safely returned to the Dominican Republic to be reunited with his family.

Disrupting and dismantling human smuggling and trafficking rings has been a top priority for ICE since the agency was established in March 2003, given the potential threat that these organizations pose both to national security and public safety. With ICE's broad authorities for enforcing immigration and customs laws and its expertise in financial investigations, the agency is able to pursue human smuggling organizations more aggressively than ever before. As a result, ICE agents arrested more than 1,630 human smugglers nationwide in fiscal year 2004.

The public is reminded that a criminal complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.